

DECLARATION

My name is LeMoyne Snyder and I reside at 325 Valley View Drive, Paradise, California. I am a doctor of medicine and also a member of the Bar and for many years have been engaged in the field of legal medicine and in particular homicide investigation. Expertise in this field requires a thorough knowledge of the fundamentals of firearms identification and over several decades I have pursued studies in this field. My book HOMICIDE INVESTIGATION is a standard text in many police academies and it contains a chapter dealing with these fundamentals.

Any expert testimony which I might give in a case involving firearms identification would be based, at least in part, on the following six Precepts which I consider inviolable.

Precept (1) The positive identification of an evidence bullet as having been fired from a particular gun and no other must be based on a comparison of the evidence bullet with a test bullet recovered from the same evidence gun and no other.

Opinion: No identification can be made if the test bullet is recovered from some gun other than the evidence gun, even though the test gun may be of the same make and model and have a serial number very close to the serial number of the evidence gun. Such a procedure is a violation of Precept (1).

Precept (2) The most accurate and reliable determination of the approximate distance between muzzle and victim (excluding contact) based on powder pattern distribution must be made with the actual evidence gun and no other. It is also important to use the same make and type of ammunition, preferably from the same batch or lot number.

Opinion: The use of a gun other than the evidence gun, even though it may be the same make and model with a serial number very close to the serial number of the evidence gun is a violation of Precept (2).

(When the evidence gun is not available, a similar gun may be used but the validity of the test is always questionable)

Precept (3) The land and groove dimensions (part of the rifling specifications) may be identical or nearly identical between different firearms manufacturers.

Opinion: A bullet or bullet fragment cannot be identified as having been fired from a particular make of gun on the basis of land and groove dimensions alone.

Precept (4) Very similar copper coatings are used on many different makes of lead revolver bullets.

Opinion: The positive identification of the make of ammunition from a badly deformed bullet fragment, based on visual, microscopic or photographic examinations of traces of the copper

coating attached to the fragment, cannot be made.

Precept (5) CLASS CHARACTERISTICS as shown by the rifling impressions on a fired bullet play absolutely no role in the identification of such a bullet as having been fired from one particular gun out of the entire world population of guns having the same class characteristics.

Opinion: It is a misrepresentation to claim that one or more CLASS CHARACTERISTICS on a fired bullet contribute in any degree to identifying the bullet as having been fired from any particular gun and no other.

Precept (6) A single land of the rifling of a firearm can produce only one land impression on a fired bullet.

Opinion: An alleged positive identification of an evidence bullet in which it is shown that a single rifling land produced two different land impressions on the same evidence bullet is a violation of Precept (6). The alleged positive identification is therefore not valid.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Herb M. Snyder

Witness *Virginia G. Rundle*

Executed on May 19th, 1971
at Paradise, California